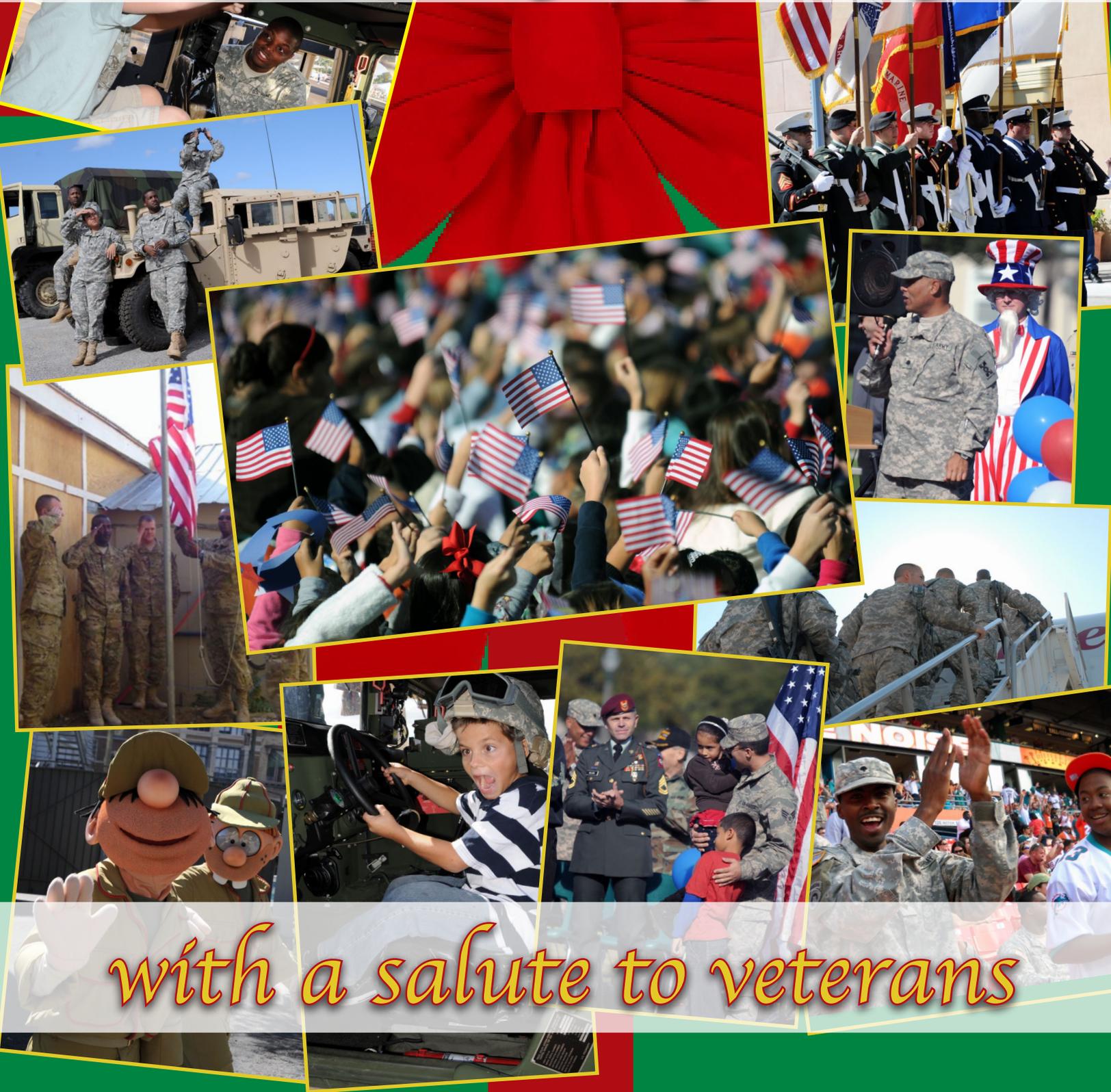


# ESC TODAY

*143d ESC wraps up the year*



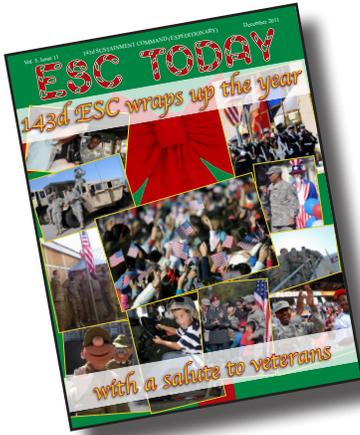
*with a salute to veterans*

# December 2011

VOL. 5, ISSUE 11



ESC TODAY



### << On the Front Cover

The 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) was quite busy in November, and the “ESC Today” staff and contributors were there to capture the action. From pre-deployment exercises and air shows to parades and professional football games, Soldiers and their Families showed their pride and professionalism to a grateful and awe-inspired public.

**6-17** Photos courtesy of ESC Today contributors

Commander  
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(Expeditionary)  
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ESC Today is the monthly command information magazine of the 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense, according to provisions in Army Regulation 360-1. The opinions and views expressed in ESC Today are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Defense Department, Department of the Army or the headquarters, 143rd ESC. The

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# The Command Post

The end of the year approaches rapidly, and what a year it has been. Throughout the ESC both home and abroad we've seen our Soldiers, Families, and units perform across many different mission sets in an outstanding manner. I want to personally thank all of you for the hard work and attention to detail that sets the 143d ESC apart from all others. Additionally, I want to thank all of you who supported the various Veterans Day activities across the Command and in your communities. We must never forget the sacrifices made by generations of Service members and their families.

Ten years of war has strained the military community; however, we must continue to prepare. To meet current and future threats, our military must remain the finest in the world. It must be an agile and deployable full-spectrum force that can deter conflict, project power and win wars. Just as we did not predict Pearl Harbor or 9/11, we cannot predict the future with any certainty. We can, however, remember the lessons of history:

No major conflict has ever been won without "boots on the ground," and a strong, decisive Army will be — as it always has been — the strength of our nation.

Operation New Dawn is coming to an end and many 143d ESC Soldiers will be coming home within the month. Ensure measures are taken to welcome them successfully and reintegrate Soldiers and families using programs and special agencies the Army provides. Our responsibilities are many, but caring for Soldiers is a top priority, especially when integrating from combat to peaceful environments. The weeks ahead will prove our commitment and our returning Warrior Citizens will be welcomed honorably.

As the holidays approach, we must all take time to count our blessings and enjoy time with loved ones. Please thank them for allowing you to serve and to protect this great nation. Enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie of friends and the special moments with family.

Lastly, we are in the middle of the Holiday season so please enjoy the upcoming Holidays



Brig. Gen. Mark W. Palzer  
*Commander*  
143d Sustainment Command  
(Expeditionary)

with and be especially safe when traveling and spending precious time with family and friends. In addition, use caution hanging those lights and decorating your homes. Do not take shortcuts. We need every Soldier, every family member and all our units to remain strong ... Army Strong!  
Sustaining Victory!

# The Bottom Line

Let's face it, humankind is getting fatter. In an era where global governments, international corporations and individual families trim budgets to skeletal proportions, the bellies of more than half a billion people around the world threaten to burst britches.

The Army is not immune to this epidemic. Despite a complete overhaul of its physical readiness programs, Soldiers by the thousands fall below or above (mostly the latter) proper weight standards. The demands of deployment spared many of these troops from facing a less than honorable discharge. With the draw down in Iraq and the likely elimination of nearly 50,000 Soldiers by 2016, the Army can no longer forgive such negligence.

Recent data shows that the Army has taken steps to adapt to a numerically smaller yet physically stronger force. In 2010, the service said farewell to 468 enlisted Soldiers who failed

to meet weight standards. This number nearly doubles those who succumbed to the same scenario in 2009. Will Soldiers belonging to the 143d ESC meet a similar fate in 2012?

They had better not.

NCOs cannot sit idly by for the Army to adopt stricter standards before taking action. Rather, it is our responsibility to identify problems and predict trends. In this case, NCOs must actively monitor those in danger of mutilating their military careers due to excessive pounds and inches.

NCOs not only stand as icons of the Warrior Ethos but also as sources of inspiration for our superiors and subordinates to excel in everything they do. Show your Soldiers you care by explaining—and, more importantly, exemplifying—the benefits of a healthy diet and regular exercise. Lead them to a lifestyle where a sound mind resides in a sound body. Doing so you will prevent our warriors from having their futures



Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey E. Uhlig  
*Command Sergeant Major*  
143d Sustainment Command  
(Expeditionary)

cut short by a scale and measuring tape. It's just one more way NCOs can keep the 143d ... Army Strong!

# Reflections by the Chaplain:



## What's LIGHTING Your Way?

*Click here to watch Chaplain Ray's words of motivation for the month*

Dear Soldiers and families of the 143d ESC, During the month of December there is a special image that is familiar to all of us, regardless of our particular faith tradition. That image is the star in the night sky that shone so brightly over the little town of Bethlehem. We are told that wise men used the light of this special star to navigate their way to Bethlehem in search of the messiah, the promised one. As soldiers we know all too well how different a piece of terrain can look at night versus the day. Even a little bit of light can make all the difference in the way a particular battle unfolds. In fact, "light" and "visibility" are quite often a game changer for soldiers, particularly soldiers like us who are in the business of logistics (e.g., moving troops, equipment, and supplies). During the holiday season, I would like to ask each of you to ponder the following important question:

"What light do I choose to follow along the many paths that I walk each and every day?"

I recently took my children to visit the lighthouse in St. Augustine. I asked them to imagine how important that small beam of light from the shoreline must have been to the mariners out at sea. We talked about the fact that noticing the light, and making navigational choices based on that light, quite often was a life-or-death decision for the sailors. Imagine for a moment how the mariners must have felt when they expected to see a light from the shoreline and saw none, particularly when the seas were rough and a terrible storm was brewing. In the absence of light from shore, the sailors' hearts must have been filled with a great many negative emotion ... emotions such as uncertainty, confusion, trepidation, distress, fear,

and hopelessness.

During the month of May I wrote about the seven army values: Leadership, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage. As soldiers we've heard these seven values from the time we first had the privilege of wearing the uniform. But hearing the Army Values is quite different than actually living them. If we are living the Army Values, it means that we are allowing the "unique light" that each one produces to guide our words and deeds. In essence we are deciding to embrace these seven, time-honored ideals so that each one permeates our thoughts and actions. By doing so, we allow the Army Values to influence important decisions that we make with regard to our family, friends, and professional obligations. The "guiding light" of the Army Values should be as important to us as the warmth that we seek on cold December nights. One of my favorite quotes is the following; "At night a candle's brighter than the sun." I promise each of you, when you are troubled and face difficult decisions, the seven Army Values, coupled with your personal faith, will serve as the "bright candles" that you need to guide yourself through dark and uncertain circumstances.

Soldiers and families of the 143d ESC, during the month of December I encourage you to reflect upon this article each time you notice the splendor of beautiful holiday lights. It may be a shining star or a bright angel on top of a Christmas tree. It may be the warm glow of candles during Kwanza or Hanukkah. It may be the brightly lit "apple" as it drops in Time Square on New Year's Eve. It may be the flames of a crackling fire in the hearth as you share special mo-



Lt. Col. Brian Ray  
Command Chaplain  
143d Sustainment Command  
(Expeditionary)

ments with family and friends. Or it may simply be the dim glow of a lone candle in a windowsill on a cold, dark December night. Regardless of the type of light you see, each time you notice one of these beautiful holiday illuminations, make a promise to yourself to follow the lights that will lead you well as you travel down life's difficult paths. This holiday season, let others see you following the lights that glow brightly along the paths of honor, virtue, and charity.

Wishing you a very merry holiday season ...

Sustaining Victory ... Army Strong !

CH (LTC) Brian Ray

Command Chaplain, 143d ESC

"Pro Deo et Patria ... For God and Country!"



# The Legal Corner

In the last month 165 Other Than Honorable discharges were issued for drug abuse and non-participation. Another 46 Soldiers will face involuntary separation boards in December and January. The Commanding General also directed that a formal reprimand be placed in a senior NCO's OMPF for acts of misconduct.

A person who leaves a civilian job to perform service in the USAR has the right to reemployment under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, provided he or she meets the eligibility criteria:

1. You must have left your job for the purpose of performing service in the Army Reserve.
2. You must have given prior notice to your civilian employer.
3. Your cumulative period or periods of service, relating to that particular civilian employer, must not have exceeded the five-year limit.

4. You must have been released from the period of service without receiving a disqualifying discharge.

5. You must make a timely application for reemployment.

You must have left your employer for the purpose of performing service in the USAR. You will not have reemployment rights under USERRA if you left your job for another reason.

USERRA requires you to give prior notice to your civilian employer, preferably in writing, regardless of the category or expected duration of the period of service. You have the burden of proof on the eligibility criteria, including establishing that you gave prior notice.

You do not have the right to reemployment if your cumulative period or periods of service, with respect to the employment relationship for which you seek reemployment, exceeds five years.

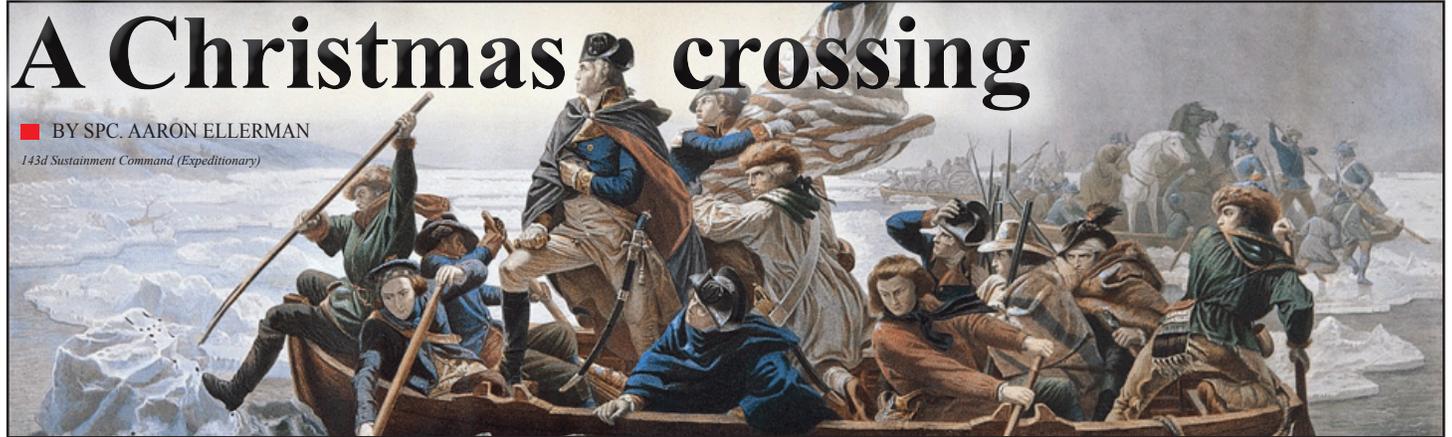


Maj. Kenneth Biskner  
Deputy Staff Judge Advocate  
143d Sustainment Command  
(Expeditionary)



## A Christmas crossing

BY SPC. AARON ELLERMAN  
143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)



In 1776 General George Washington and his continental Army were forced to withdraw into Pennsylvania after the British had taken control of New York and New Jersey and had dealt a series of blows to the American forces. Adding to the numerous defeats the Army's enlistments were dwindling and the morale depleted.

Nevertheless, in a daring and well-executed plan Washington soon regained control of New Jersey. On Dec. 25, 1776 Washington and his men crossed the treacherous semi-frozen Delaware river and executed a surprise attack against approximately 1,500 Hessian troops encamped in Trenton. Washington's troops took nearly 900 prisoners and suffered less than 20 combat casualties. With a major victory at the Battle of Trenton Washington managed to retake control of New Jersey and now set his focus on the British force occupying New York.

In the months that followed Washington was pushed back at the Battle of Brandywine and the British Army marched into Philadelphia unopposed. After being outmaneuvered Washington tried to retake the city at the battle of Germantown but was unsuccessful. With the winter months of 1777 approaching Washington and his troops settled into Valley Forge.

Plagued by disease, malnutrition, poor morale, inclement weather, and lack of pay the next five months were trying for Washington and his men. Approximately 2,500 out of 10,000 men died that winter due to the harsh conditions. Washington did not let this hinder his force and, with the arrival of Baron (Freiherr) Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben, the Army was ready to begin the year's campaigns. Von Steuben was a Prussian elite service member who served as Washington's acting inspector general. He trained the troops to be uniform, efficient and disciplined.

With the entrance of France into the war Great Britain pulled back to New York where they were then blockaded. Washington moved south to Yorktown and with aid from the French encircled the British. The fight for independence was over, and Washington and his men had prevailed.

Facing inclement weather, starvation, lack of clothing, shelter, and pay, General George Washington and the Continental Army kept rolling along. Against seemingly insurmountable odds Washington and his troops continued to fight for freedom and thanks to their determination and resiliency our glorious country was born.

As we celebrate Christmas let us not forget the first Christmases that we celebrated as a free country and the fight for that freedom. ☒



Photo by Sgt. Elisebet Freeburg | 143d ESC

# 365th CSSB prepares for deployment

■ BY SGT. ELISEBET FREEBURG

*143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)*

FORT DIX, N.J. – As the sun shone brightly in the clear, blue sky, a pattern of rifle fire shattered the brisk morning air. After nearly three weeks of training at the Regional Training Center-East here in Fort Dix, N.J., Soldiers of the 365th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion put their hard work into action Nov. 5 during a culminating exercise.

An Army Reserve unit based in Jackson, Miss., the 365th CSSB will leave in the near future for a deployment to Afghanistan in direct support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Since their arrival at Fort Dix, the troops have prepared for their upcoming mission through a packed agenda of training, including combatives, urban operations, vehicle roll-over training, first aid, and much more.

“Overall, I think that the training environment that the staff here at RTC have provided us really give Soldiers the opportunity to hone their skills,” said 1st Lt. Victor McNair, the 365th CSSB’s headquarters and headquarters company commander from Brandon, Miss. “It allows our unit to go overseas and complete the mission at hand.”

It hasn’t always been easy. A record-breaking snowstorm slammed the Northeast the last weekend of October. The reservists persevered to train on the weapons range, even during the inclement weather.

“Soldiers have been pretty motivated, even though conditions have been difficult,” said Lt. Col. Mark Smith, the battalion commander from Macon, Ga. “They’ve been sticking to it and keeping their spirits high.”

During the culminating exercise, Soldiers drove Humvees in a convoy through a mock Middle-Eastern village, putting their training under the test by reacting to simulated ambushes, enemy fire, explosions and more. Troops also displayed their cultural awareness during a key-leader engagement patrol when a team from each convoy met village elders.

The troops of the 365th CSSB have learned to work together, even though nearly half of them are newly-assigned to the unit. Many of them bring experience to the battalion, as Smith estimates 70 percent of his troops have previously deployed.

The battalion’s leadership is also new to the unit. Both Smith and McNair arrived within the last six months.

“We seem to work really well together,” said Smith. “I really don’t have any worries about that.”

In addition to training difficulties, Soldiers must surpass the challenges of leaving their homes, families and lives for about a year.

“I’ll miss my children,” said Sgt. Dwana Floyd, a 365th CSSB food service specialist from Clinton, Miss., “but I look forward to meeting new people and seeing a different part of the world.”

Upon arrival in Afghanistan, the nearly 100 Soldiers will collaborate with other units to continue sustainment operations of U.S. and coalition forces. The battalion also plans to mentor its Afghan counterparts in sustainment operations.

The 365th CSSB reports to the 321st Sustainment Brigade, 143d Sustainment Command. (Expeditionary). ☒



Photo by Sgt. Elisebet Freeburg | 143d ESC

While blank rifle rounds are fired around them, Soldiers from the 365th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion drag their “wounded” comrade away from a simulated explosion during a culminating training exercise Nov. 5 in Fort Dix, N.J. The 365th CSSB is preparing for deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

# 143d ESC awards six who 'make safety happen'

■ BY MARK DALY

143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

ORLANDO, Fla. - The 143d ESC Command Safety Program conducted its annual awards program Sept. 16. The Command safety staff evaluated all six of its brigades on the effectiveness of their safety programs, as well as the individuals that make safety happen in the field on a day-to-day basis.

Claude Whitney, safety manager for the 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) held a meeting with all of the civilian safety specialists for the fiscal year 2011 Safety Awards. Whitney asked each safety specialist to nominate individuals in the non-commissioned officer, warrant officer, officer and safety specialist categories.

Each individual recommended had to have gone above the standards in the safety arena, while each nomination had to include a short description of the nominee's acts.

To win the Brigade Safety award, all six brigades were scrutinized using thirteen categories included types of training accomplished, on time reporting/accuracy of accident reporting, and the number of field missions accomplished, just to name a few.

The following are this year's winners by category:

- Brigade: 207th Regional Sustainment Brigade
- NCO: Master Sgt. John Pennamon with the 518th Sustainment Brigade for fulfilling the duties of a civilian safety specialist at the brigade level to include standing up his brigade program from nothing.
- Officer: Capt. Jacklyn Medina with the 332nd Training Company for her duties as an exercise Additional Duty Safety Officer.
- Warrant Officer: CW3 Mia Perdue with the 143d ESC for assisting and developing the first Occupational Safety and Health Administration maritime safety training in the Army Reserve for crews and civilian safety specialists, allowing the 143d ESC Maritime safety program to be one of the best.
- Safety Specialist: Leigh Coulter with the 207th RSG due to her contributions to the 143d ESC safety program, and for her leadership ability and expertise demonstrated at the Career Program (CP-12) course.

Congratulations and thank you to all of the winners, your hard work and dedication to keeping our soldiers safe is an example to us all. 🇺🇸



Photo by Staff Sgt. Christine Rogers | 207th RSG

Leigh Coulter (left) receives the Safety Specialist of the Year award from Col. James C. Bagley, commander of the 207th Regional Support Group during a ceremony hosted by the 143d ESC's Command Safety Program held Sept. 16 in Fort Jackson, S.C. Coulter, a safety and occupational health safety specialist with the 207th RSG, earned the title among stiff and safety conscientious nominees from six brigades.



## WHY I SERVE:

*Name:* Keith Engler  
*Rank:* Major  
*Unit:* 143d ESC  
*Job Title:* Operations Officer

*Hometown:* Orlando, Fla.  
"I never expected that I would make the military a career when I enlisted in the Army Reserve in 1994. I joined originally to earn money for college, but as the years passed I realized how well the Army Reserve had taken care of my family and me.

Today the Army has exceeded all my expectations. Granted, life

gets hard sometimes as you prepare to move or deploy every three years, but the benefits outweigh the costs. I'm reminded of this fact every day that I set eyes on my wife and son.

Family aside, I've enjoyed traveling around the world. I saw the pyramids when participating in Bright Star, a military exercise held in Egypt. Another assignment allowed me to tour Italy, Belgium and Holland.

The professional goals I've set for myself are now far above those I es-

tablished 17 years ago. I aim to become a battalion commander within my next two duty stations, then plan to retire as a full colonel.

I encourage anyone considering to join the military to put the needs of your family above your own, for they must be behind you 100 percent. They should also be aware that integrity will take them far in this profession. Being a man of your word will assure that your time in the service will be like mine: simply awesome."

Photo by Spc. John L. Carkeet IV | 143d ESC

# GROUND SUPREMACY

## 489th TC rolls into Stuart Air Show

■ BY SPC. JOHN L. CARKEET IV  
*143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)*

STUART, Fla. - When Spc. Chris A. Gray first heard about the Stuart Air Show during a Unit Public Affairs Representative conference in June, he set his plan in motion.

“I know that I’m in one of the best transportation units in Florida,” said Gray. “It’s only right that it should participate in one of the state’s largest air shows.”

Two days after the conference, the 489th Transportation Company (Seaport Operations) earned the honor of representing the Army Reserve as thou-

sands of aviation enthusiasts readied to converge on Witham Field in Stuart, Fla., during Veterans Day weekend.

Gray, a former Sailor and current motor transport specialist with the 489th TC, was assigned to select eight exemplary Soldiers who would accompany him on this community relations mission.

These Soldiers had to prove they knew the features and functions of the Humvee and the M1078 Light Utility Truck, The selection criteria scoring included written examinations on both vehicles combined with the Soldiers’ previous mission evaluations.

“I still had a hard time narrowing the list down due

*See Air Show, pg. 9*



Seated atop a Humvee, Spc. Kevin Blaton, a cargo specialist with the 489th Transportation Company (Seaport Operations), gazes at an Air Force F-16 fighter jet performing low altitude maneuvers above thousands of other spectators who gathered at Witham Field, Fla., Nov. 12 to take in the sights and sounds of the 2011 Stuart Air Show.

Photo by John L. Carkeet IV | 143d ESC

## Air Show, cont >>

to their outstanding records,” Gray admitted.

Gray and his squad went to work preparing two Humvees and an LMTV for transport and display. Spc. Jessica Kavanagh, a motor transport specialist with the 489th TC, claimed that no one complained about the hours of cleaning and maintenance conducted by her team.

“I’m proud I was picked for this event,” said Kavanagh. “These vehicles (on display) represent who we are and what we do.”

The convoy departed Nov. 10 from Jacksonville, Fla, fully fueled, briefed and inspected. Five hours and 150 miles later, the team rolled onto the tarmac at Witham Field.

“The trip down there was fun,” said Gray. “It brought back a lot of memories from driving in convoys overseas.”

The Soldiers spent much of Veterans Day at the airfield securing its static display. They were in no hurry to finish the task as they took in the sights, sounds and smells of the upcoming aviation spectacle.

“I had never been to an air show before,” said Staff Sgt. Dearia Davis-Young, a cargo specialist with the 489th TC. “Though the show hadn’t officially started, we toured some of the aircraft and watched the stunt pilots rehearse their (aerial) acts.”

When the gates opened to the public the morning of Nov. 12, the response surpassed the Soldiers’ expectations.

“I didn’t expect this air show to be this big,” said Gray. “I talked to and shook hands with hundreds of people wanting a closer look at our Soldiers and equipment.”

Children and teens clamored around the vehicles, waiting impatiently for their chance to sit in the driver’s seat. Many smiled when a Soldier placed an Army Combat Helmet on one of their heads. Others laughed when another Soldier showed them how to bring the Humvee’s engine to life. A few even showed surprise to see women wearing Army Combat Uniforms.



Photo by John L. Carkeet IV | 143d ESC

Spc. Jessica Kavanagh, a motor transport specialist with the 489th TC, shows a young girl how to turn on a Humvee’s engine. Kavanagh and seven other Soldiers from her unit gave hundreds of young adults a chance to sit in the driver’s seat of one of two Humvees and an M1078 Light Utility Truck during the Stuart Air Show held Nov. 12-13 at Witham Field, Fla.

Many of the show’s visitors had never seen a Soldier in person before, said Davis-Young. The girls, in particular, were amazed to see women in a profession that they thought only men could do.

Adults, too, showed their support with handshakes, group photos, and an occasional hug or pat on the back.

“A few folks even paid for a couple of our meals,” said Gray.

“I’m impressed by the love received from this community,” said Kavanagh. “I’ve never been so proud to wear this uniform.”

Between answering questions, assisting children and posing for pictures, the Soldiers helped the faculty of the Southeastern Military Academy, a boarding school based in Port St. Lucie, Fla., run the obstacle course at Camp Victory, an interactive attraction featuring patriotic shops, tactical games and vintage Army vehicles and equipment. There, Gray and his

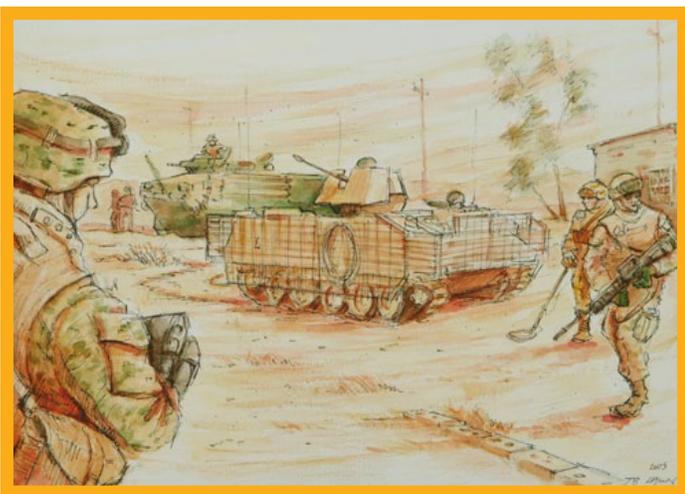
troops gave young, potential recruits a taste of basic military training.

“It’s good to see that these young kids just want to know more about the service,” said Gray. “Events like this help them understand that the Army is more than what they see on television.”

Even though the 489th TC could not display a warfighting machine with wings or rotor blades, the Soldiers believed they belonged at the Stuart Air Show as much as any aviator.

Displaying America’s military might on air, land and sea shows that the armed forces is united against a common foe, said Kavanagh. The mission remains the same regardless what flies, drives and sails.

“We’re not only Soldiers but brothers, sisters, mothers (and) fathers,” said Gray. “We came here to remind everybody that we are part of their community, (and) that we protect them while they sleep.” ☒



## Weapons Cache Search Team

2004-2005

By Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Lawn

•Lawn deployed 2004-2005 as a photographer, print journalist and combat illustrator in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.  
•Employed as a civilian by Special Operations Command, Lawn is the noncommissioned officer in charge for the 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) public affairs office.

•From the collection “Army Artists Look at the War on Terrorism 2001 to the Present: Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait and the United States”  
•Courtesy of the Army Art Collection, U.S. Army Center of Military History (USACMH) [http://www.history.army.mil/books/wot\\_art-work/index.html](http://www.history.army.mil/books/wot_art-work/index.html)

# 642nd Regional Support Group Soldier thrilled about new mission

■ BY CW2 ROSALIND BUSH  
*642nd Regional Support Group*

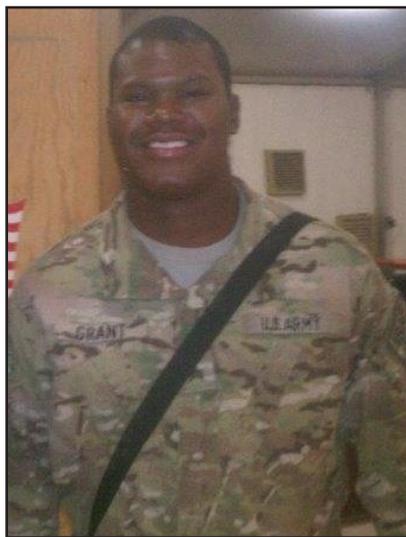
Deployment for many means entering a foreign environment and operating outside of your comfort zone. Sgt. Jhamon Grant, operations noncommissioned officer in charge who was transferred from the 321st Sustainment Brigade to the 642d Regional Support Group in April 2011, can identify with foreign operations. Operation New Dawn marks Grant's 3rd deployment. The regional support group member is doing above and beyond what is expected of him, even though his mission is not what he expected prior to arriving to theater. While most of his peers and leaders are stationed throughout Kuwait, Grant is representing the 642nd RSG in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Although he says he misses his peers, Grant is excited to be a part of the Mobile Container Assessment Team. The team comprises 32 Soldiers to include Grant, and they are spread out in seven cities throughout Afghanistan. The team's mission is to stop the government from receiving detention fees for non-government containers. Once the containers arrive from the United States, the government has approximately 10 days to empty their contents and return them before incurring a late fee.

According to data and contracts obtained by USA TODAY, "The Pentagon has spent more

than \$720 million since 2001 on fees for shipping containers that it fails to return on time." If the military fails to return a container, a rent-to-own arrangement requires it to pay the shipper nearly \$7,400 for a 20-foot container worth \$3,200.

According to Globalsecurity.org, the Army objectives are to optimize the use of origin-



Courtesy Photo

Having transferred from the 321st Sustainment Brigade, Sgt. Jhamon Grant joined the 642nd RSG's Mobile Container Assessment Team to help prevent unnecessary container detention fees, an effort that saves hundreds of thousands of dollars.

destination containerization to sustain peacetime, war planning, transition to war, and wartime Army transportation requirements, and to develop origin, in-transit, destination, and force structure containerization capabilities consistent with Army transportation requirements. The Army maintains unit integrity by keeping a unit's equipment together in the same container or the same ship.

How does the MCAT team work to reduce unnecessary spending and detention fees? Non-government owned containers are located by using the integrated booking system container management module. The system allows the team members to track the container location, assess the container, and empty its contents into a government owned receptacle that allows the carried owned vessels to be sent back in a timely manner.

Grant, a native of Baton Rouge, La. who has been in the military for nine years, said he is thrilled about his sudden mission because he feels that he is learning a lot and gaining experience. A husband and father of four children, Grant believes that the mission is essential because it is reducing costs and preventing unnecessary detention fees. ☒

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## Re-up deadline is Jan. 31

### *90-day window for re-enlisting remains in effect*

■ BY JIM TICE  
*Army Times*

Attention short-timers: If you want to re-enlist, you have about two months to do it.

Soldiers due to separate by next September must re-enlist by Jan. 31, Army officials say.

Those with separation dates of Jan. 1 through Sept. 30 are in the

first of two phases of the Army's 2012 enlisted retention campaign.

The re-enlistment opportunity window for soldiers in this category opened Oct. 1 and will close Jan. 31, according to James Bragg, chief of the enlisted retention and reclassification branch of Human Resources Command.

An Army policy requiring soldiers

to re-enlist at least 90 days before their expiration term of service, or ETS, remains in effect, Bragg said.

This means soldiers whose 90-day window occurs before Jan. 31 are restricted. For example, soldiers with an ETS of March 15, 2012, must re-enlist by Dec. 15 to avoid hitting the 90-day window.

Some soldiers in the target

population for Phase I will not be affected by the 90-day window, but they must re-enlist by Jan. 31, the closeout date for Phase I.

For example, soldiers with ETS dates in May, June, July, August and September must re-enlist by Jan. 31.

The re-enlistment mission for

*See Deadline, pg. 13*

**Deadline, cont >>**

Phase I is 10,800 soldiers, Bragg said. As of mid-November, the Army was about halfway toward reaching that goal.

Fifty-eight percent of the soldiers who have re-enlisted since Oct. 1 have qualified for a retention bonus, Bragg said.

In fiscal 2011, the Army re-enlisted 43,650 soldiers for the active component, well above the minimum mission of 40,000.

During that year, the service spent \$136 million on Selective Re-enlistment Bonuses, and \$21 million for the Critical Skills Retention Bonus Program that is targeted at senior noncom-

missioned officers in priority specialties.

While fiscal 2012 appropriation levels have not yet been set by Congress, Pentagon officials expect bonus spending will be about the same as in 2011.

Sources expect the bonus options that took effect in October likely will be updated before the launch of Phase II.

The Phase II re-enlistment campaign for 2012 will begin no later than March 1, although the particulars of the program have yet to be determined by Pentagon personnel officials, Bragg said. ☐



Photo by Christin Michaud

Staff Sgt. Joseph A. Green III recites the Oath of Enlistment during a reenlistment ceremony at the Charles C. Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs in Dover AFB, July 5.

# Don't be That Guy (or Girl)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, RESOURCES, OR TO GET HELP:

[www.thatguy.com](http://www.thatguy.com)



## The price of getting plastered:

- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the cost of excessive alcohol consumption in the United States reached \$223.5 billion in 2006. That comes to about \$746 per American or \$1.90 per drink.
- Federal, state, and local governments paid for \$94 billion, or 42 percent of the total economic costs; drinkers and their families paid just about the same amount. Government agencies paid 61 percent of the direct health care expenses.
- Productivity costs: More than 15 percent of U.S. workers report being impaired by alcohol at work at least one time during the past year, and 9 percent of workers reported being hung-over at work.
- Almost three-quarters of these costs were due to binge drinking. Binge drinking is defined as consuming four or more alcoholic beverages per occasion for women or five or more drinks per occasion for men, and is the most common form of excessive alcohol consumption in the United States.
- Alcohol abuse kills 79,000 people a year.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Since 1998, the Randy Oler Memorial Operation Toy Drop has provided presents to families in need. Hosted by the U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command, this charitable mission gives thousands of paratroopers, all of whom donate a new toy to the cause, an opportunity to earn their foreign jump wings. This year marks Operation Toy Drop's expansion on a national level, and the 824 Quartermaster Company (Heavy Airdrop) will lend its support both in the air and on the ground. Visit <http://www.usacapoc.army.mil/OTD.htm> and find out how you can spectate (or, better yet, participate) in one of the country's most unique philanthropic projects.

# Universal Orlando honors 143d ESC

■ BY SPC. JOHN L. CARKEET IV  
143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

ORLANDO, Fla. - Whether they drive a couple miles or fly across a couple continents to spend the day at the Universal Studios Orlando, visitors expect one of the world's most popular theme parks to entertain them with exhilarating rides, interactive shows and colorful characters. On Veterans Day, the resort not only met its guests' demands but also dedicated day to those who defend or have defended our nation while wearing the uniform of an American service member.

Since 2007 the 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) has participated in Universal Orlando's annual Veterans Day celebration.

"We have a great relationship with Universal," said Staff Sgt. Richard J. Vicenty, the color guard non-commissioned officer in charge for the 143d ESC. "We're very pleased with how the park's staff accomodates our Soldiers and their guests."

Vicenty worked closely with Fred D. White, senior director of diversity for the resort and a leading member of Universal Orlando

Veterans Network, to coordinate the 143d ESC's contribution to the ceremonies.

UOVN hosts this event to honor Universal Orlando veterans, engage community partners and educate team members about the courage and contributions of America's military, said White.



Photo by Spc. John L. Carkeet IV | 143d ESC

An interservice color guard marches past the "Revenge of the Mummy" ride during the fifth annual Veterans Day Parade held Nov. 11 at Universal Studios, Fla. The Soldiers in the formation--Spc. Reinaldo Corredor and Spc. Larry Dix--both serve under the 143d ESC.

It's an honorable way to embrace a culture of inclusion.

The ceremonies commenced with a parade through the park that featured high school bands, Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps detachments, patriotic cartoon charcters, veterans groups and members of America's armed

forces.

143d ESC Soldiers Spc. Larry Dix and Spc. Reinaldo Corredor marched in step with the parade's interservice color guard. Dix held the Army's official flag while Corredor kept Old Glory fluttering in the autumn breeze.

"The parade proved that our

Soldiers are professionals, said Vicenty. "It's important to look our best that so the public knows that we appreciate them as much as they appreciate us."

The festivities climaxed with a free luncheon presenting a variety of main courses, side dishes and home made desserts. Patriotic

songs, a touching prayer, and a somber slide show accompanied the meal.

Lt. Col. Todd Lewis, chief of plans for the 143d ESC, gave the keynote address to the hundreds of distinguished guests and their families convened in the park's conference hall.

"The 143d has been mobilized and deployed for the better part of 10 years," said Lewis. "We have many Soldiers whom we have sent overseas to participate in Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and now New Dawn. I am honored to speak on behalf of a local unit led and supported by veterans."

After his address, White and his staff awarded Lewis with a framed certificate of appreciation, then gave each Soldier a pair of complimentary tickets to the parks.

"People see theme parks as a place to forget about your worries and have all kinds of fun and excitement," said Lewis. "For an organization such as Universal to stop what they're doing and honor their veterans is truly huge." ☒



Photo by Spc. John Carkeet | 143d ESC

*Name:* Michael Steedley  
*Rank:* Private First Class  
*Unit:* 81st Transportation Company  
*Job Title:* Cargo Specialist  
*Hometown:* Daytona Beach, Fla.

"My dream to join the Army started in high school. My father and brother served in Iraq, and I felt it was my duty to uphold this proud family tradition. My first deployment allowed me to see the good we've done not only for our country but other nations as well. These experiences engrained the value of respect, a lesson I passed to my children. The way they and my fiance looks up to me supports my decision to stay in the Army and become a warrant officer."

## WHY I SERVE:

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Department of Defense wants your photos! Specifically, the DoD seeks images that show what life is like for military members serving overseas. Photos may be submitted for "Serving Abroad . . . Through Their Eyes" in one of six categories: daily life, friendship, places, faces, loss or triumph. Selected images will be displayed in an exhibition planned for the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the Pentagon and other prominent venues. Defense Department officials ask that one checks with a local public affairs official (in this case, the "ESC Today" staff) before submitting one's pictures. For more information, visit <http://www.ourmilitary.mil/their-eyes>.



# Take 5

Manage Stress  
for a Happy Holiday

- Acknowledge your feelings
- Reach out to others
- Keep expectations realistic
- Set aside differences
- Stick to a budget
- Plan ahead



ARMY SAFE  
IS ARMY STRONG



# How to enjoy a **SAFE** holiday season

■ BY AAP STAFF  
*American Academy of Pediatrics*

## Trees

When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label “Fire Resistant.” When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green, needles are hard to pull from branches and when bent between your fingers, needles do not break. The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin, and when tapped on the ground, the tree should not lose many needles. When setting up a tree at home, place it away from fireplaces, radiators or portable heaters. Place the tree out of the way of traffic and do not block doorways. Cut a few inches off the trunk of your tree to expose the fresh wood. This allows for better water absorption and will help keep your tree from drying out and becoming a fire hazard.

Be sure to keep the stand filled with water, because heated rooms can dry live trees out rapidly.

## Lights

Check all tree lights—even if you’ve just purchased them—before hanging them on your tree. Make sure all the bulbs work and that there are no frayed wires, broken sockets or loose connections. Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted. Before using lights outdoors, check labels to be sure they have been certified for outdoor use. To hold lights in place, string them through hooks or insulated staples, not nails or tacks. Never pull or tug lights to remove them. Plug all outdoor electric decorations into circuits with ground fault circuit interrupters to avoid potential shocks.

Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house. The lights could short out and start a fire.

## Decorations

Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree. Choose tinsel or artificial icicles of plastic or unleaded metals. Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens. Always use non-flammable holders, and place candles where they will not be knocked over. In homes with small children, take special care to avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable. Keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children to prevent them from swallowing or inhaling small pieces. Avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food that may tempt a young child to eat them. Wear gloves to avoid

eye and skin irritation while decorating with spun glass “angel hair.” Follow container directions carefully to avoid lung irritation while decorating with artificial snow sprays.

Remove all wrapping papers, bags, paper, ribbons and bows from tree and fireplace areas after gifts are opened. These items can pose suffocation and choking hazards to a small child or can cause a fire if near flame.

## Toy Safety

Select toys to suit the age, abilities, skills and interest level of the intended child. Toys too advanced may pose safety hazards for younger children.

Before buying a toy or allowing your child to play with a toy that he has received as a gift, read the instructions carefully. To prevent both burns and electrical shocks, don’t give young children (under age 10) a toy that must be plugged into an electrical outlet. Instead, buy toys that are battery-operated. Children under age three can choke on small parts contained in toys or games. Government regulations specify that toys for children under age three cannot have parts less than 1 1/4 inches in diameter and 2 1/4 inches long. Children can have serious stomach and intestinal problems – including death -- after swallowing button batteries and magnets. Keep them away from young children and call your health care provider immediately if your child swallows one. Children under age 8 can choke or suffocate on uninflated or broken balloons; do not allow young children to play with them. Remove strings and ribbons from toys before giving them to young children. Watch for pull toys with strings that are more than 12 inches in length. They could be a strangulation hazard for babies.

Parents should store toys in a designated location, such as on a shelf or in a toy chest, and keep older kids’ toys away from young children.

Parents should store toys in a designated location, such as on a shelf or in a toy chest, and keep older kids’ toys away from young children.

## Food Safety

Bacteria are often present in raw foods. Fully cook meats and poultry, and thoroughly wash raw vegetables and fruits. Be sure to keep hot liquids and food away from the edges of counters and tables, where they can be easily knocked over by a young child’s exploring hands. Be sure that young children cannot access microwave ovens. Wash your hands frequently, and make sure your children do the same. Never put a spoon used to taste food back into food without washing it. Always keep raw foods and cooked foods separately, and use

separate utensils when preparing them. Always thaw meat in the refrigerator, never on the countertop.

Foods that require refrigeration should never be left at room temperature for more than two hours.

## Happy Visiting

Clean up immediately after a holiday party. A toddler could rise early and choke on leftover food or come in contact with alcohol or tobacco. Remember that the homes you visit may not be childproofed. Keep an eye out for danger spots. Keep a list with all of the important phone numbers you or a baby-sitter are likely to need in case of an emergency. Include the police and fire department, your pediatrician and the national Poison Help Line, 1-800-222-1222. Laminating the list will prevent it from being torn or damaged by accidental spills.

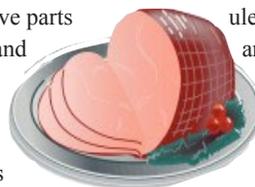
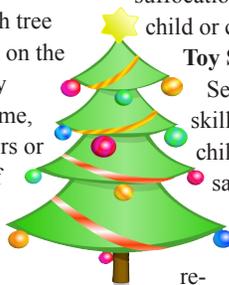
Traveling, visiting family members, getting presents, shopping, etc., can all increase your child’s stress levels. Trying to stick to your child’s usual routines, including sleep schedules and timing of naps, can help you and your child enjoy the holidays and reduce stress.

## Fireplaces

Before lighting any fire, remove all greens, boughs, papers and other decorations from fireplace area. Check to see that the flue is open.

Use care with “fire salts,” which produce colored flames when thrown on wood fires. They contain heavy metals that can cause intense gastrointestinal irritation and vomiting if eaten. Keep them away from children.

Do not burn gift wrap paper in the fireplace. A flash fire may result as wrappings ignite suddenly and burn intensely. ☒



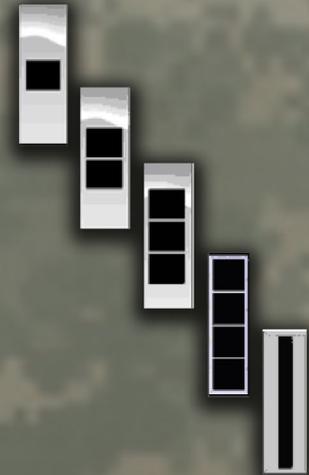


# WANTED

## Army Reserve



# WARRANT OFFICERS



**W.O.C.**

### Minimum WO Qualifications

Must be a US Citizen

General Technical (GT) score of 110 or Higher

High School graduate or GED

Secret Security Clearance (Interim secret is acceptable to apply)

Pass 3 event APFT and meet Height and Weight Standards

Pass the Chapter 2 Appointment Physical

Between ages 18 – 46 (waiverable)

Be a Specialist or above

Have Relevant Civilian Experience or hold a Feeder MOS

Additional criteria based on Warrant Officer MOS applying for:

Visit: [www.usarec.army.mil/hq/warrant/](http://www.usarec.army.mil/hq/warrant/)

## CONTACT INFO:

SFC Lionel Spooner@ 321.695.6189

[lionel.spooner@usar.army.mil](mailto:lionel.spooner@usar.army.mil)

MSG Angelina Craigen@ 386.916.5632

[angelina.craigen@usar.army.mil](mailto:angelina.craigen@usar.army.mil)

CW5 David N. Conrad@ 407.421.7097

[David.N.Conrad@usar.army.mil](mailto:David.N.Conrad@usar.army.mil)

***Call or Email TODAY for more information!***

# Around the ESC



Photo by Spc. John L. Carkeet IV | 143d ESC  
 Spc. Larry Dix (left) and Spc. Reinaldo Corredor (right) hold the Army's official colors and Old Glory as a roller coaster roars overhead. Dix and Corredor joined the interservice color guard during Universal Orlando Resort's fifth annual Veterans Day Parade held Nov. 11 at Universal Studios in Orlando, Fla.



Courtesy Photo  
 From left to right: Spc. Ruben D. Guzman, WO1 Sonya Clemons, Sgt. Dennis Blockton and Spc. Carlos Espinosa pose in front of a Veterans Day memorial erected Nov. 11 at Forward Operating Base Union III in Baghdad, Iraq. The Soldiers, all of whom belong to the 912th HRC Postal Detachment 3, participated in the FOB's Veterans Day 5k run/walk.



Photo by Spc. John L. Carkeet IV | 143d ESC  
 John McKinney (left), a manager at Universal Orlando Resort, presents a certificate of appreciation to Lt. Col. Todd Lewis (right), chief of plans for the 143d ESC. Universal Orlando's Veterans Network invited Lewis to give the keynote address to hundreds of service members during the park's Veterans Day luncheon.



Photo by Maj. John Adams | 143d ESC  
 Children from various elementary schools shake hands with Soldiers from the 143d Sustainment Command during a Veterans Day appreciation ceremony held Nov. 11 in Lake Nona, Fla.

# Around the ESC



Photo by Sgt. Elisebet Freeburg | 143d ESC

Randy Knox, the area facility operations specialist for the 81st Regional Support Command and retired Army Reserve sergeant major, hits a golf ball Nov. 12 during the 495th Transportation Company's 7th annual 495th Legends Veterans Day BBQ and Golf Tournament in Zephyrhills, Fla. Money raised from the event supports Treats for Troops, a nonprofit organization that sends care packages to service members overseas.



Photo by Sgt. Elisebet Freeburg | 143d ESC

While training at the Regional Training Center-East in Fort Dix, N.J., Soldiers from the 365th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion prepare to breach a building Nov. 5 after being fired upon during a simulated ambush. This culminating exercise showcased the skills the 365th CSSB acquired during weeks of training in preparation for deployment to Afghanistan.



Photo by Spc. John L. Carkeet IV | 143d ESC

Soldiers, Families and an Airman spare a few seconds from their tailgating activities for a photo Nov. 13 outside Sun Life Stadium in Miami Gardens, Fla. The Miami Dolphins honored Soldiers from the 143d ESC with complimentary tickets to their game against the Washington Redskins. A dedication ceremony featuring scores of Soldiers and Sailors greeting players as they rushed onto the field.

# Around the ESC



Photo by Gloria Harris | Hood Mobilization Brigade

Soldiers from the 640th Regional Support Group begin their deployment in earnest as they board a plane bound for Afghanistan. The unit took off Oct. 31 from Fort Hood, TX.

## UNIT PHOTOS WANTED

Seeking photos of Soldiers from your unit performing operational duties and basic soldiering skills. Include a basic caption with names, ranks, place, date and a short description of what is happening in the photo. Send photos and/or any requests you may have to:

john.adams16@usar.army.mil



Photo by Spc. John L. Carkeet IV | 143d ESC

Spc. Chris Gray, a motor transport specialist with the 489th Transportation Company (Seaport Operations), helps a child adjust an Army Combat Helmet as he prepares to step in a Humvee during the Stuart Air Show held Nov. 12 at Witham Field, Fla. Gray and six other Soldiers from the 489th TC dedicated the days leading up to the show to cleaning, repairing and transporting three of their unit's vehicles for a display that attracted thousands of spectators.



Photo by Spc. Aaron Ellerman | 143d ESC

Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Lawn, a public affairs chief of the 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and his son participate in a veterans day ceremony honoring those from Hillsborough county which were killed in the Vietnam war. The ceremony was held at Veterans Memorial Park where the new Vietnam memorial was unveiled. Lawn designed the mural seen on the back of the six-foot high wall. The wall, which is the centerpiece of the Vietnam memorial, displays the names of 155 service members.

# Shoulder to Shoulder

I WILL NEVER QUIT ON LIFE



U.S. ARMY

**Prevent Army Suicides**  
**Ask ★ Care ★ Escort**

Talk to your Chain of Command, Chaplain or Behavioral Health Professional  
or call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

[www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org)    [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com)  
[www.preventsuicide.army.mil](http://www.preventsuicide.army.mil)

# WHAT PARENTS, SCHOOLS AND ADMINISTRATORS SHOULD KNOW:



## What is the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children?

The Compact deals with the challenges of military children and their frequent relocations. It allows for uniform treatment as military children transfer between school districts in member states. Each member state must adopt the Compact through legislation. Each Compact state will appoint representation to an on-going governing Commission which will enact necessary rules. The Compact calls for the development of State Councils in each member state. Each State Council may be tasked with development of policy concerning operations and procedures of the compact within the state.

### Students are covered under the compact

A student enrolled in K-12 in the household of a full-time duty status in the active uniformed service of the United States, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders pursuant to 10 U.S.C. Section 1209 and 1211.

Members or veterans of the uniformed services who are severely injured and medically discharged or retired for a period of one year after medical discharge or retirement.

Members of the uniformed services who die on active duty or as a result of injuries sustained on active duty for a period of one year after death.

### Students are not covered under the compact

#### **The compact does not apply to children of:**

Inactive members of the national guard and military reserves

Members of the uniformed services now retired not covered in the above

Veterans of the uniformed services not covered in the above

Other U.S. Department of Defense personnel and other federal agency civilian and contract employees not defined as active duty members of the uniformed services.

### Data the school should expect the military child/family to be able to provide upon transfer

Official military orders showing that the military member was assigned to the state (or commuting area) of the state in which the child was previously duly enrolled and attended school.

If a military child was residing with a legal guardian and not the military member during the previous enrollment they will have a copy of the family care plan, or proof of guardianship, as specified under the Interstate Compact, or any information sufficient for the receiving district to establish eligibility under the compact.

A transcript, **official or unofficial**, or an official letter from the proper school authority which shows record of attendance, academic information, and grade placement of the student.

Documented evidence of immunization against communicable disease.

Evidence of date of birth.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SENDING / RECEIVING SCHOOL

**"Receiving state": the state to which a child of a military family is sent, brought, or caused to be sent or brought.**

**"Sending state": the state from which a child of a military family is sent, brought, or caused to be sent or brought.**

### Educational and Enrollment Records

#### **Unofficial or "hand-carried" education records**

Custodian of Records sends unofficial records to parents.

School shall enroll and appropriately place student pending validation of official records.

#### **Official Education Records/Transcripts**

Receiving state shall request student's official education records from sending state.

Sending state's school will furnish official education records within ten (10) days or reasonably determined time promulgated by the Interstate Commission.

#### **Immunization**

Student is given thirty (30) calendar days from the date of enrollment.

Series Immunization.

For a series of immunizations, initial vaccinations must be obtained within thirty (30) calendar days.

#### **Kindergarten and First Grade Entry Age**

Receiving state shall allow student to continue their enrollment at grade level from sending state and promote student that satisfactorily completed prerequisite grade level in sending state, regardless of age.

Student transferring after school year starts shall enter school at the same grade and course level from accredited sending school state.

# THANK YOU VETERANS CRUISE



For our Veteran friends making their own cruise reservation:

We thank you for deciding to join us in a memorable event for all veterans and especially our soldiers returning from their recent tours of duty in the Middle East. Young and old, we're all brothers and sisters who have shared the military experience. See you on board!

The Cpl. Larry E. Smedley National War Museum has chosen USAA's travel alliance partner, Explore Cruise and Travel, to handle bookings. They have assured us we are getting the best prices available. The stateroom prices found on the attached form include all taxes, port charges, onboard ship gratuities as well as a \$50.00 stateroom onboard credit. You are strongly encouraged to reserve with a deposit now in order to hold these room prices. Cancellation with a full refund is allowed prior to October 8, 2012. Low cost USAA travel insurance is also available through the Travel Agent.

The cruise will take place aboard the Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines ship Monarch of the Seas, sailing from Port Canaveral on Friday Dec. 7 returning Monday Dec. 10, 2012, with ports of call in Nassau and Coco Cay.

## What you need to do -

Please refer to and complete the accompanying form.  
Fax the completed form to: (602)896-4720 or  
e-mail [carol.lee@ourvacationcenter.com](mailto:carol.lee@ourvacationcenter.com)  
For more information, please call Carol Lee, our Cruise  
Coordinator at 800-571-4208, ext. 5078  
Please Reference Our Group Code PV1207  
A \$50.00 Per Person Deposit Is Required

